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(57) Abstract

The present invention features new approaches for modulating immune responses. In particular, the invention features methods for modulating type 1 immune responses in a subject using modulators of Eta-1(early T lymphocyte activation-1)/osteopontin. Examplary methods feature methods of treating infections, immune disorders and diseases, autoimmune disorders and diseases, various immunodeficiencies and cancer. Also provided are biosynthetic immunomodulatory molecules that include functional domains derived from Eta-1/osteopontin. Preferred biosynthetic immunomodulatory molecules include an IL-12 stimulatory domain derived from Eta-1/osteopontin or an IL-10 inhibitory domain derived from Eta-1/osteopontin. The immunomodulatory molecules of the present invention are capable of biasing an immune response in a subject towards a type I immune response. Accordingly, therapeutic uses are disclosed which are based on the biosynthetic immunomodulatory molecules of the present invention.